

To the members of the Public Health Committee:

**I strongly oppose the following proposed bills:**

**H.B. No. 5397** AN ACT DECLARING GUN VIOLENCE A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS AND ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION.

**S.B. No. 477** AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLIC HEALTH OF RESIDENTS OF THE STATE

**For the following reasons:**

- The bills target primarily violence involving firearms. **ALL** classes of violence should be addressed. Data from the CDC, FBI and DOJ show that violence involving firearms is only a small part of the total number of violent incidents nationwide. Their data shows in particular that Connecticut ranks among the states with the lowest incidences of violence of all types.
- The bills create a redundant layer of bureaucracy.
- The bills assignment of representatives does not include experts on firearm subject matter. There appears to be an anti gun bias in the selection of these representatives.
- This proposed legislation appears to once again unjustly vilify Connecticut's law-abiding firearms owners and to further limit their constitutional rights as expressed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment.

Regards,  
Robert J O'Connell  
Southington, CT  
Member of CCDL and NRA  
March 27, 2022